

Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the first annular cavity has a radially innermost bottom whose radial distance to the second deflector ring is at least 1.4 times the axial distance between the two radial fins that delimit the first annular cavity.

4. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the first radial fin is arranged further axially outward than the second radial fin and at least partially closes off the seal with respect to an environment surrounding the seal in an axial direction which is radially longer than the second radial fin.

5. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 4, wherein the radial distance between an inner lateral surface, facing the first deflector ring, of the second deflector ring and the axis of rotation increases as the axial proximity to the surrounding environment decreases, the inner lateral surface at least partially engaging radially around the radial fins and the first cavity.

6. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the first annular cavity is delimited by annular surfaces that radially increase in distance from one another towards the second deflector ring.

7. (Previously Presented)) The seal as claimed in claim 6, wherein the annular surfaces are inclined at an angle from 70° to 85° with respect to the axis of rotation.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the first radial annular gap on an axially outer side of the first radial fin opens out freely into an environment axially surrounding the seal.

10. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the first radial annular gap is radially narrower than the second radial annular gap.

11. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the second radial annular gap runs radially closer to the axis of rotation than the first radial annular gap.

12. (Currently Amendment) The seal as claimed in claim & 25 , wherein the first annular gap opens out axially into a radial first collection channel, which runs around the axis of rotation, in the second deflector ring, and the first collection channel is open toward the environment axially surrounding the seal.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the first radial annular gap is radially narrower than the second radial annular gap, and in that the second radial annular gap is radially narrower than the third radial annular gap.

17. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the first radial annular gap is further away from the axis of rotation in a radial direction than the second radial annular gap, and in that the second radial annular gap is further away from the axis of rotation in the radial direction than the third radial annular gap at its radially narrowest point.

18. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the first radial fin is radially longer than the second radial fin, and in that the second radial fin is radially longer than the third radial fin.

19. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the third radial annular gap, starting from the second annular cavity, runs initially radially between the third radial fin and the second deflector ring and then runs onward, towards the axis of rotation, on a curved path between the third radial fin and the second deflector ring, and finally, on a side of the third radial fin which is axially remote from the second radial fin, is formed axially between the third radial fin and the second deflector ring.

20. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the third radial annular gap, starting from the second annular cavity, leads to a third annular cavity in the seal, the third cavity being enclosed at least by the first deflector ring and by the second deflector ring.

21. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 25, wherein the third radial annular gap runs out in the radial direction via the second collection channel.

22. (Previously Presented) A seal, comprising:

a first deflector ring concentrically arranged inside a second deflector ring and about a common axis of rotation;

two radial fins formed on the first deflector ring, extending radial outward towards the second deflector ring without contacting the second deflector ring;

a smooth, outwardly conical, inner lateral surface formed on the second deflector ring, radially opposing the two radial fins;

a first collection channel delimited axially by the two radial fins and radially by the first deflector ring;

a first annular cavity delimited axially by the two radial fins and delimited radially by the first collection channel and the inner lateral surface;

a second collection channel delimited by a transverse fin extending axially from an inward radial limb of the second deflector ring, the inward radial limb axially inward of the first deflector ring, the second collection channel radially inward of the first collection channel and the two radial fins; and

at least one seal with at least one elastic sealing lip starting from the inward radial limb of the second deflector ring, the sealing lip being radially prestressed against a shaft.

23. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 22, wherein the sealing lip is arranged axially next to the first deflector ring, which is seated on the shaft and delimits the seal on the axially outer side.

24. (Previously Presented) The seal as claimed in claim 22, wherein the sealing lip is at least 2.5 times as long as the sealing lip is thick at a thickest point transversely with respect to this length.

25. (Previously Presented) A seal for an annular opening between members, the seal comprising:

a first deflector ring concentrically arranged inside a second deflector ring and about a common axis of rotation;

two radial fins formed on the first deflector ring, extending radial outward towards the second deflector ring without contacting the second deflector ring;

a smooth, outwardly conical, inner lateral surface formed on the second deflector ring, radially opposing the two radial fins;

a first collection channel delimited axially by the two radial fins and radially by the first deflector ring;

a first annular cavity delimited axially by the two radial fins and delimited radially by the first collection channel and the inner lateral surface;

a second collection channel delimited by a transverse fin extending axially from an inward radial limb of the second deflector ring, the inward radial limb axially inward of the first deflector ring, the second collection channel radially inward of the first collection channel and the two radial fins;

the first annular cavity merges axially into a first radial annular gap formed between a first radial fin of the two radial fins and the second deflector ring, and into a second radial annular gap formed between a second radial fin of the two radial fins and the second deflector ring;

a third radial fin formed on the first deflector ring and spaced axially opposite the second radial fin;

a second annular cavity formed axially between the second radial fin and the third radial fin; and

the second annular cavity merges axially into the second radial annular gap and into a third radial annular gap between the third radial fin and the second deflector ring.